

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1
INCIDENT NO. 2000-048
DATE: June 7, 2000 TIME: 1:30 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Drought Conditions – In northeastern North Dakota, Pembina and Walsh Counties are experiencing excessively dry conditions. Local officials report that these conditions have caused damages to agricultural crops, pasture and hayland, and are also a threat to the wellbeing of livestock.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: In both Pembina and Walsh Counties, dry conditions have raised concerns about economic impacts to area farmers and agricultural-related businesses.

In Walsh County, concerns are for impacts on pastures, hay and germination of new crops. Indications are that 5 to 10 percent of the normal spring planting has not been accomplished due to dry conditions. Pastures are showing high amounts of stress, and hayland is producing very minimal amounts of grass. Some areas of the county have received less than one inch of precipitation since March 1. Some producers have stopped seeding and are awaiting additional precipitation.

Pembina County officials reported that topsoil moisture conditions are poor, while subsoil conditions are still good. Crop losses, rural fire potential and limited water supplies are major concerns at this time.

Fire departments in both counties also experienced heavy rural fire activity earlier in the spring because of dry conditions.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: In Pembina and Walsh Counties, the boards of commissioners, extension agents and emergency management officials are gathering information on conditions. Local fire departments are monitoring dry conditions that could contribute to an increased fire danger.

STATE: State officials are monitoring conditions.

FEDERAL: Staffs for the National Weather Service, Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service are monitoring conditions and reviewing existing avenues of assistance to address agricultural impacts.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No volunteer activities have been reported at this time.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Boards of Commissioners for Pembina and Walsh Counties have issued emergency declarations because of drought conditions. They also have developed plans for releasing information to the public regarding fire hazards and water supply issues.

Pembina and Walsh officials are working with their U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) County Emergency Boards to seek release of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for haying and grazing. The boards have begun an assessment of drought condition impacts.

Pembina County officials issued a news release encouraging farmers who have sustained losses due to drought conditions to contact the local Farm Service Agency and Extension Agent offices.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Local officials are working with USDA to seek release of CRP lands for haying and grazing.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Local insurance adjusters have been assisting producers regarding federal crop insurance concerns/questions.

9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is:
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director